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an author can only claim a copyright by the law of the country in which it is first published. That was the doctrine of our courts, and the legislature might be considered as having adopted and sanctioned it by the enactment of the two recent international copyright acts. The learned counsel for the defendant contended that though an alien residing abroad might publish here, he could not transfer the right to another; but if by the law of a foreign country in which he resides the right may be assigned to a publisher with a right of again assigning, the assignee of the author, or his assignee, becomes the owner of the property. It consisted in the right of retaining a monopoly for the sale of a work in the country in which it was first published. Whatever right the author of this work had of publishing in England was transferred by him to Ricordi, and by Ricordi to the plaintiff. His lordship having referred in detail to the authorities cited in the course of the argument, observed that he was perhaps justified in saying that these cases were rather in favour of the doctrine now supported by this court. In the Exchequer, a case decided by Vice-Chancellor Shadwell was relied on, in which his Honour had observed that the court would not protect the copyright of a foreigner. But the point in that case had nothing bearing on the present question, it being for an infringement of a design for seals and labels; and in a subsequent case—"Bentley v. Simons" (as we understood)—his Honour adopted the view now taken by the court. One other point only remained. It was contended on behalf of the defendant that there was not in the evidence any valid assignment to Ricordi, there being no allegation that it was attested by two witnesses. Looking at the assignment in the bill of exceptions, it might be presumed that there was such an assignment executed as was sufficient. At all events, the court thought the title sufficient, upon the statement that Bellini assigned to Ricordi according to the law of Milan. This was not like a conveyance of real property in England, or an assignment of personalty in England, which might be attested in a particular form. When the assignment was made, it had no reference to England, and it was merely sufficient to clothe Ricordi with all the rights of property in the opera of *La Sonnambula*. The assignment by Ricordi to the plaintiff was made according to all the forms of English law. Upon the whole, the court thought the learned judge ought to have directed the jury that if they believed the evidence they should find a verdict on both issues for the plaintiff. There must, therefore, be a *venire de novo*.

Correspondence.

THE MENDELSSOHN SCHOLARSHIPS.

To the Editor of the "Musical Times."

SIR,—At page 99 of the Third Volume of your valuable work, I find the following notice relating to the above:—"That a proportion of the scholarships shall always be held by natives of the United Kingdom; and that a part of the sum collected shall be devoted to the endowment of preparatory scholarships in the Conservatory of Leipsic, reserved for the natives of the United Kingdom, to qualify them for competition for the Mendelssohn Scholarship."

Now, from very good authority, I learn that nothing has yet been done, or, if anything, it still remains in the dark. That a large sum of money was collected from various sources to erect some fitting monument to the memory of the great departed genius. * * *

I, for one, would compete for a scholarship-preparatory, and try to follow in the steps of the man to whose genius I might be indebted for my learning. I trust, Sir, if I am in error you will be so kind as to inform me on what

point, as also, if the scholarship is established, the right place to make application for particulars. I most sincerely hope it is not to be managed in the style of the *Reid Legacy*—a notice of which (copied from the *Athenæum*) appears at page 133, Vol. III. of your work.

Trusting you will oblige me with an answer in your next publication, I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

AN ADMIRER OF MENDELSSOHN.

Friday, May 9th, 1851.

[We regret that the information we are able to give at the present moment, with regard to the intended Mendelssohn Scholarships, is but scanty. To a final decision the British Committee have not yet come, having hitherto been suspended by the little progress which the Leipsic Committee has made. The British Committee has not felt itself authorized to dispose of the funds entrusted to its care until after the statutes of the foundation should have been confirmed by its Royal patron and protector, the King of Saxony; and this confirmation is still waited for, delayed as it appears by the state of German affairs. Meanwhile, the funds (the produce of the performance of *Elijah*) fructify at the Bank of England.—Ed. M. T.]

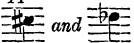
TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have to thank our friend Mr. Simpson, of Dundee, for his public recommendation of our journal.

E. C., City.—We have been promised, by a friend, some biographical particulars of the composer Curschman, which shall be published as soon as obtained.

LEO.—If you will call at our publisher's, you will find that the *Berlin Choir Music* was published at the time it was announced.

G. C. T., Brixton.—The *Kyrie*, from Haydn's *Seventh Mass*,

MERCATOR should shew his *Violin* to some good dealer, who would give him the best opinion on it. The word "Enharmonic change," is applied to the difference existing between two notes, say  but for which, on the piano and other fixed instruments, the same sound is used. The book by Colonel Thompson, advertised page 172, will give you the best account of *Enharmonics*.

F. D. should not feel disappointed at the simplicity of the *Pendulum Metronomes*. The contrivance was suggested many years since by Dr. Crotch; and the improvement in those now advertised is, that the tape is marked with numbers at lengths to correspond with the marks of Mäkel's *Metronomes* generally found in printed music, and in the compactness of their cases. F. D. is in error to suppose that the beats of any pendulum get slower without altering its length; the first vibrations will cause the weight to travel over more space, but exactly the same time is occupied in arriving at the points of return. F. D. should ask the other questions of his music seller, they are of no interest to our readers.

Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

CHOIR BENEVOLENT FUND, CHORAL FESTIVAL.—Permission has been given by the Sub-Dean of Westminster for the celebration of a Full Choral Service, in Westminster Abbey, by Members of the Cathedral and Collegiate Choirs, on Thursday, June 12th, for the purpose of Founding a Benevolent Society, on the Mutual Assurance principle, for the support of the Widows and Orphans of Organists and Lay Clerks who may be in distressed circumstances. At the conclusion of the Service, a Selection of